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German Wind Energy Association BWE joins GWEC Board

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The Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) (1) welcomes the German Wind Energy Association (BWE) (2) amid its new board members.

The BWE is the largest renewable energy association in the world, representing about 18,900 members, including operators and their shareholders, turbine manufacturers and component suppliers, developers, financiers, scientists, engineers, technicians and lawyers. In total 85% of the German wind industry and operating wind farms are organized in BWE.

BWE emerged in 1996 from a reunion of two forerunner organisations. Over the last 10 years, the association has accompanied and fundamentally influenced the development of wind energy in Germany, the world's biggest market. At the end of June 2006, Germany had installed 18,054 wind turbines with a cumulative capacity of 19,299 MW. In an average wind year, this capacity will generate around 35.4 TWh of electricity, meeting about 6.8% of the country's demand. The German feed-in law is one of the most successful support mechanisms in Europe, serving as an example for a number of more recent renewables laws worldwide.

"We regularly receive queries about the German feed-in law as a success model from countries around the world. This makes it essential for the BWE to work closely with the leading international associations, such as GWEC. We are also keen to be involved in international representation and feel that GWEC is a very influential body in this area, since it is representing the global wind energy industry at international level," said Peter Ahmels, President of the BWE.

"We are delighted to count the BWE among our board members. The association's long and successful history and Germany's importance in the wind energy sector makes BWE a valuable partner, it brings a unique set of experience and expertise to GWEC's work," said Arthouros Zervos, Chairman of GWEC. "Having the BWE on board will further increase the political weight of GWEC on the global stage."

GWEC's membership has increased substantially during recent months, and the Council now counts 75 members, operating in over 50 countries. These represent the most important players in the wind industry sector, including manufacturers, developers, utilities and trade associations. For a full list of members, please consult www.gwec.net.

(1) Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) – www.gwec.net

GWEC is the global forum for the wind energy sector, uniting the wind industry and its representative associations.

The member associations of GWEC represent:

- Over 1,500 companies, organisations and institutions in more than fifty countries
- All the world's major wind turbine manufacturers
- 99% of the world's more than 59,000 MW of installed wind power capacity

The following organisations are Members of the GWEC Board:

- Acciona Energía
- Airtricity
- Associazione Nazionale Energia del Vento (ANEV)
- Australian Wind Energy Association (AusWind)
- American Wind Energy Association (AWEA)
- Bundesverband Windenergie (BWE)
- Canadian Wind Energy Association (CanWEA)
- Chinese Renewable Energy Industries Association (CREIA)
- European Wind Energy Association (EWEA)
- Gamesa
- Garrad Hassan
- GE Wind Energy
- Hansen Transmissions
- Iberdrola
- Indian Wind Turbine Manufacturers Association (IWTMA)
- Japanese Wind Energy Association (JWEA)
- LM Glasfiber
- Nordex AG
- Renewable Energy Systems (RES)
- Shell WindEnergy
- Siemens Wind
- Suzlon Energy
- Vestas Wind Systems

(2) See www.wind-energie.de/en/ for more information on the BWE.